

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 IO-13
HA-05 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-06 NEAE-00 /099 W
-----121771 151731Z /43

O 151650Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7105

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1389

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, MARCH 15, 1800 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 1381 (DTG 151403Z MAR 78)

1. BEIRUT AIRPORT REOPENED AROUND 1600 HOURS (ALL TIMES
LOCAL, MARCH 15, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER ISRAELI
ATTACKS IN THE CAPITAL AREA SINCE THE BOMBING AROUND 1400 HRS.
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(AREA STRUCK DURING THIS ATTACK WAS AN NABI AL AWZAI, NORTH
OF THE AIRPORT, WHERE A FISH RESTAURANT AND SEVERAL HOUSES BUT
NO PIER WERE HIT. NEITHER SABRA-SHATILA CAMP NOR BURJ
AL BARAJINAH WERE HIT.) ISRAELI AIRCRAFT ALSO BOMBED
DAMOUR AT ABOUT 1330 HOURS. INTIAL REPORTS FROM DATT SOURCES
SAY THAT CASUALTIES AT DAMOUR WERE LIGHT, BECAUSE THE BOMBS
DID NOT STRIKE IN POPULATED AREAS.

2. BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS THAT AS OF 160P HOURS FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON WAS GENERALLY DECREASING EXCEPT AROUND AL KHIYAM.

3. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE TELLS US THERE HAVE NOW BEEN ELEVEN CASUALTIES FROM AIR ATTACKS NEAR BEIRUT ADMITTED AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (AUH); ONE LEBANESE WOMAN DEAD ON ARRIVAL, AS WELL AS ONE 13 YEAR OLD PALESTINIAN GIRL AND NINE LEBANESE ADULTS WOUNDED. HE SAID MOST WERE HIT WHILE IN THEIR CARS OR HOMES. HE BELIEVED THERE WERE CERTAINLY MANY MORE CASUALTIES WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO OTHER HOSPITALS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY WERE PALESTINIANS.

4. AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT WHO VISITED SOUTH LEBANON FROM ABOUT 0500 TO 1100 HOURS MARCH 15 OBSERVED THE FOLLOWING:

-- PALESTINIANS WERE SENDING REINFORCEMENTS INTO THE AREA IN TRUCKS AND IN CIVILIAN CARS WITHOUT SYRIAN INTERFERENCE.

-- THERE WERE NO SYRIAN SOLDIERS SOUTH OF ZAHRANI. SYRIAN SOLDIERS WERE IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ALONG THE COAST BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND SIDON, BUT APPEARED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELAXED AND NOT EXPECTING AN ISRAELI ATTACK.

-- THERE WERE ALMOST NO CIVILIANS LEFT IN THE TYRE REGION. RASHADIYAH CAMP WAS ON FIRE.

-- THERE WERE ABOUT 25 PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS KILLED IN THE RASHADIYAH AREA. (CORRESPONDENT DID NOT OBSERVE ANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.) MANY WOUNDED PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS WERE BEING BROUGHT TO TYRE AND SIDON.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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